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CPYRGHT

Dominican Agent

The four-count indictment of a Washington lawyer for violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act does not by any means "solve" the disappearance of Dr. Jesus de Galindez and Gerald Lester Murphy. There is no indication, indeed, that the indictment, which charges failure to register as an agent of the Dominican Republic and collection of information for the Trujillo regime, is directly related to the Galindez or Murphy cases. The attorney involved must of course be presumed innocent until proved guilty. Nevertheless, it is significant that the indictment was returned by the Federal grand jury which, presumably on the basis of information presented by the FBI, has been investigating the disappearance. This is a heartening indication that the Government is continuing to press the matter to the limits of American jurisdiction. Perhaps more will come out at the trial.

Dr. de Galindez, a lecturer at Columbia University and a strong critic of the Trujillo dictatorship, vanished from New York 14 months ago. The presumption is that he was abducted to the Dominican Republic in a plane piloted by Murphy. Subsequently Murphy himself disappeared. The Dominican government produced a "suicide" note allegedly written by a Dominican officer who said he killed Murphy in a fight. The State Department, in diplomatic but nonetheless unmistakable language, has branded this note a fake. Nothing has been heard from the Dominican Republic except efforts by assorted spokesmen to shrug off the concern over Dr. de Galindez and Murphy as Communist-inspired.

A steady drumfire needs to be kept going until there is satisfaction from Ciudad Trujillo on what appear plainly to be two cases of murder of persons under American protection. The Washington trial will be worth watching for any additional grounds it may provide for action against this kind of international thuggery.